



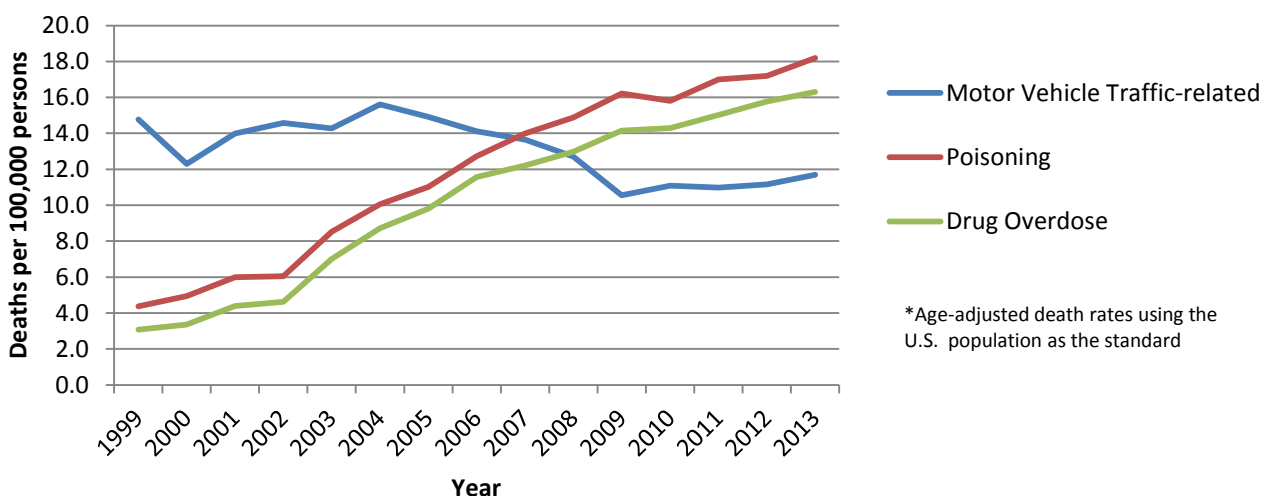
Indiana

Special Emphasis Report: Drug Overdose Deaths, 1999-2013

A Public Health Crisis Continues

Poisoning is the leading cause of injury deaths in Indiana, and drugs caused 9 out of 10 poisoning deaths. Drug poisoning deaths, also called overdoses, increased five-fold since 1999, surpassing motor vehicle traffic-related deaths in 2008 (Figure 1). In 2013, the poisoning death rate was 18.2 deaths per 100,000 persons, and the drug overdose death rate was 16.3 deaths per 100,000 persons, compared to a motor vehicle traffic-related death rate of 11.7 deaths per 100,000 persons. Nationally, overdose death rates due to opioid pain relievers have quadrupled from 1999-2010, and heroin overdoses increased by nearly 50%.¹

Figure 1. Drug overdose death rates* compared to motor vehicle-related death rates, Indiana residents, 1999-2013



Drugs Caused 9 out of 10 Poisoning Deaths

In 2013, drugs and medications –prescription drugs, illicit drugs, and over-the-counter medications, – were the underlying cause of death for 89.7% of all poisoning deaths. Of the drug overdose deaths, 78.0% were unintentional, 10.7% were suicide or intentional self harm, and 11.1% had undetermined intent. Males had rates 1.54 times higher than females and persons aged 25-34 had the highest rate of all age categories (30.9 per 100,000).

Table 1. Drug overdose deaths: Demographic characteristics and intent, Indiana residents, 2013

		Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000 persons
Gender	Female	425	40.5	12.8
	Male	624	59.5	19.8
Age (in years)*	15-24	98	9.3	10.5
	25-34	260	24.8	30.9
	35-44	234	22.3	28.3
	45-54	259	24.7	28.6
	55 and older	193	18.4	11.1
Intent	Unintentional	818	78.0	12.9
	Suicide	112	10.7	1.6
	Undetermined	116	11.1	1.8

*0-14 age group not included due to small numbers.





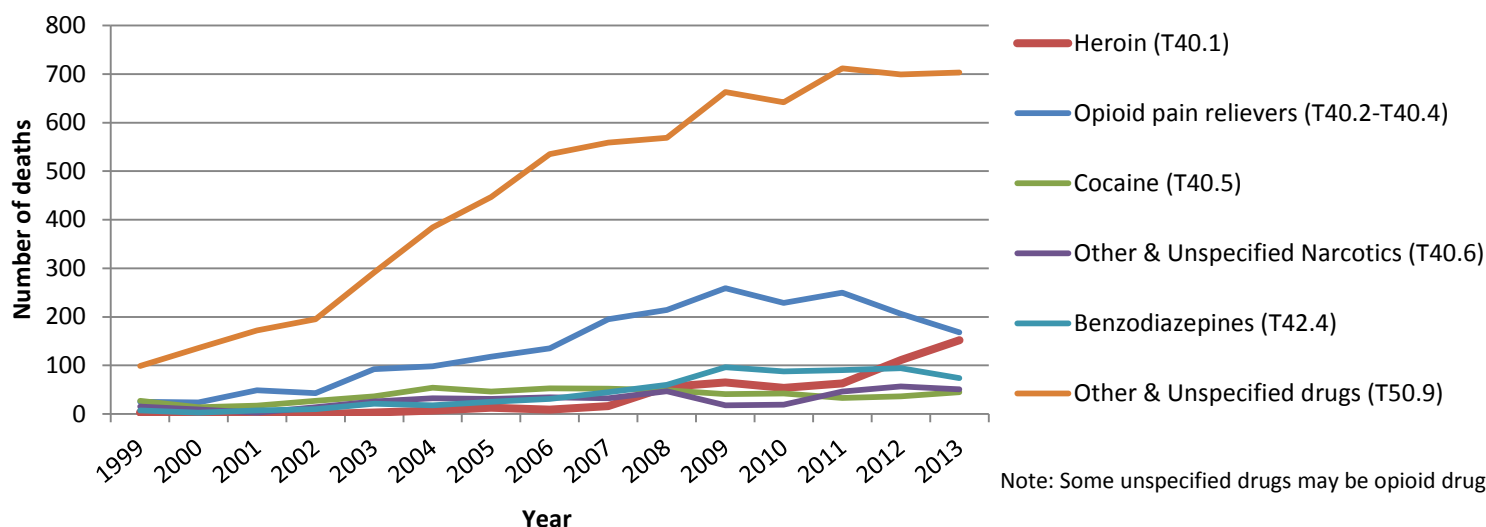
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Opioid Pain Relievers & Heroin Contribute to Drug Overdose Deaths

Any drug has the potential to be misused or abused, and may be even more dangerous when used in combination with other drugs or alcohol. The three most common include painkillers, depressants, and stimulants. Opioid pain relievers, such as oxycodone or hydrocodone, contributed to 168 (16.0 percent) of the 1,049 drug overdose deaths in 2013. These results may underrepresent the burden of opioid deaths, and a death may be included in more than one drug category. The number of heroin overdoses increased 2.4 times from 2011 to 2013. This increase may be due to increased heroin supply (cheaper and easier accessibility) and widespread prescription opioid exposure and increasing rates of opioid addiction. Heroin is an opioid and acts on the same receptors in the brain as opioid pain relievers. Approximately three out of four new heroin users report having abused prescription opioids prior to using heroin.¹

Figure 2. Number of drug overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers and other drugs, Indiana residents, 1999-2013



Addressing the Issue

The Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention at the Indiana State Department of Health works to prevent injuries and create a healthier and safer Indiana.

Actions: The **Indiana Statewide Trauma System** Injury Prevention Plan is currently being drafted and will include opportunities for collaborative poisoning prevention efforts.

Surveillance: The Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention conducts statewide injury surveillance through death certificates, hospitalizations, and ED visits.

Partnerships: The **Indiana Injury Prevention Advisory Council**, made up of members working in injury and violence prevention, works to reduce the number and severity of preventable injuries through leadership and advocacy.

Resources

The **Indiana Attorney General's Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force** works to significantly reduce the abuse of controlled prescription drugs and to decrease the number of deaths associated with these drugs in Indiana.

Website: <http://www.in.gov/bitterpill/>

Proper disposal of unused medications [through Drug Take-Back Events](#) ensures unwanted or unneeded medications do not end up on the street or cause damage to the environment.

INSPECT Prescription Drug Monitoring Program:
<http://www.in.gov/pla/inspect/>

Indiana Poison Center: Helpline: 1-800-222-1222
<http://indianapoison.org/>

CDC Injury Center: <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/>

¹Rudd, Rose; Paulozzi, Len; Bauer, Michael; et al. MMWR 2014; 63: 849-854

Report prepared by the following guidelines: Gabella BA, Proescholdbell SK, Hume B, et. al. State Special Emphasis Report: Instructions Drug Overdose Data. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; 2014.